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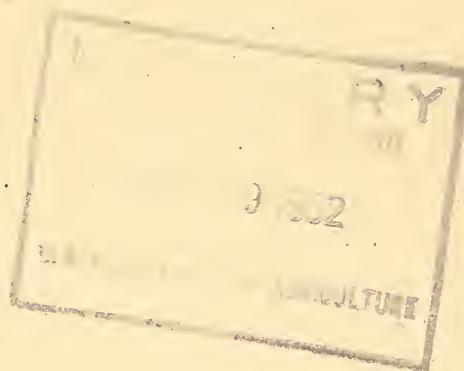
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Agricultural Research Administration
Bureau of Animal Industry

July 5, 1950

REPORT ON DEVELOPMENTS
IN THE
CAMPAIGN FOR THE ERADICATION OF
FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE
IN MEXICO

NO. 23



Note: This report has been prepared on the basis of the best information available at the time of compilation but is subject to later revision. It covers the principal developments since the issuance of the 22nd report of March 20, 1950.

Program Enters Critical Phase

The program to eradicate foot-and-mouth disease in Mexico has entered what is believed to be its most critical period. Fourth vaccinations are completed in about 30 percent of the quarantine zone and vaccine protection against the disease is wearing off in increasing numbers of animals every day. The possibility of outbreaks of active infection in these areas is to be expected and animals are watched constantly by inspection brigades, permanently assigned to specified districts. They are required to inspect every susceptible animal in each district at least once every thirty days. This increased emphasis is indicated by inspection figures reported as follows: March, 14,809,688 animals; April, 12,786,503 animals; and May, 15,221,054 animals.

The attached map indicates areas in which immunity is gradually wearing off as well as the status of continuing vaccinations.

Cessation of Vaccination Activities

Third vaccinations are being completed in the center of the quarantine zone, and fourth vaccinations will be continued—probably through July—until all areas in which foot-and-mouth disease has existed have been covered. Reduced vaccination figures of 3,388,714 animals in May can be compared with the all-time high of 5,052,811 vaccinations in January of this year.

The last vaccine was produced in Mexico on April 13, 1950, for a cumulative total of 53,124,000 doses manufactured by the Joint Mexican-United States Commission. Earlier in the program, before production facilities were provided in Mexico, a total of 1,644,619 doses of vaccine were purchased from Argentina, Switzerland, Holland, and Denmark. Thus a total of 54,768,619 doses were made available during the vaccination program. A reserve supply of about 7,500,000 doses is being held for possible emergency use.

As vaccine production units ceased operations, stringent disinfection operations were carried out in order to remove any danger of spread of infection from these sources. Buildings and equipment were thoroughly cleaned, washed, and disinfected. All residue of virus suspensions, epithelium samples, and materials which had come in direct contact with infected tissues were destroyed in a manner to prevent the escape of the virus. After these measures were completed, test animals were introduced and held for thirty days under close observation. When no symptoms of foot-and-mouth disease appeared, the animals were removed and the areas once more cleaned and disinfected before release to the original owner.

Diagnostic Tests Continued

The foot-and-mouth disease laboratory at Palo Alto, on the outskirts of Mexico City, remains in operation principally to conduct diagnostic tests on materials gathered from suspicious animals. A total of 97 such tests have been conducted since the first of the year, none of which were positive for foot-and-mouth disease. Twenty-four of the samples were positive for

vesicular stomatitis, a disease causing many of the same symptoms as foot-and-mouth. These tests represent merely a fraction of the number of suspicious cases reported during that period, many of which can be diagnosed on the spot without laboratory tests.

Slaughter Operations

Slaughter operations were carried out April 27 on one suspicious animal---an ox which had been vaccinated four times. Subsequent tests showed the disease to be neither foot-and-mouth disease nor vesicular stomatitis. However, because of the occurrence of the lesions suspicious of foot-and-mouth disease, it was considered advisable to slaughter the animal without delay, as a precautionary measure. This is the only slaughter carried out since January when fifteen animals, involved in the December outbreak in the State of Jalisco, were destroyed.

Overconfidence Presents Danger

Overconfidence is one of the greatest obstacles to be overcome during the current phase of the program. Reports that mass vaccinations will be terminated as well as the fact that no active infection has been discovered in Mexico since last December has led to a general public belief that the campaign is over and the disease is eradicated. This feeling could be extremely dangerous during the next few months when the successful completion of the program may very well depend upon constant vigilance and prompt action. The Commission is attempting to combat this hazard by issuing informative material describing the situation as it stands now and emphasizing the fact that the full cooperation of the Mexican people still is urgently needed.

COMPARISON OF PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

Vaccine Production, Vaccination, Premises Disinfection

VACCINE PRODUCTION
BEGINNING MAY 1948

VACCINATIONS
BEGINNING
FEBRUARY 1948

PREMISES DIS-
INFECTED BEGINNING
MAY 1949

	<u>Doses</u>		<u>Number</u>		<u>Number</u>
May	36,000	February	25,000	May	767
June	9,000	March	35,000	June	4,664
July	135,000	April	132,158	July	2,993
August	354,000	May	128,875	August	2,378
September	630,000	June	67,329	September	2,494
October	1,060,000	July	47,671	October	1,235
November	1,350,000	August	105,169	November	1,248
December	1,750,000	September	87,185	December	1,775
Total for 8 months	5,324,000	October	461,238		
		November	711,511	1950	
		December	959,391	January	2,636
1949		Total for 11 months	2,760,527	February	2,884
January	2,500,000			March	2,394
February	2,000,000			April	1,548
March	2,300,000			May	2,762
April	2,100,000	1949	1,775,186		
May	2,400,000	January	1,738,360		
June	3,200,000	February	2,404,970		
July	2,500,000	March	2,830,514		
August	5,200,000	April	3,664,943		
September	3,800,000	May	3,336,429		
October	4,000,000	June	2,970,056		
November	3,200,000	July	3,502,342		
December	3,800,000	August	3,009,203		
Total for 12 months	37,000,000	September	3,251,133		
		October	4,201,233		
		November	5,010,199		
1950		Total for 12 months	37,694,568		
January	3,800,000				
February	3,400,000				
March	3,000,000				
April	600,000	1950	5,052,811		
Total for 4 months	10,800,000	January	2,932,949		
Grand total	53,124,000	February	2,816,943		
Doses of vaccine purchased from Europe & South America	1,644,619	March	3,190,904		
Above grand total	53,124,000	April	3,388,714		
Total doses of vaccine made available to Commission through May 1950	54,768,619	May	17,382,321		
		Total for 5 months			
		Grand total	57,837,416		

THE FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE SITUATION IN MEXICO

JUNE 1, 1950

BASED ON REPORTS RECEIVED BY THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

